SIN	Name of the Scheme	Release		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
	Minorities			
15	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	79.55	67.43	56.73
	Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
1	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	99.85	41.83	32.10
2	Grant Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	42.08	9.61	176.95
3	Vocational Training (NGO)	3.60	0.00	0.00
4	Educational Complex	9.91	10.54	6.97
5	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	74.80	0.00	23.48
6	Post Matric Scholarship	0.00	0.00	6.40
7	Grant to NGOs	27.10	52.59	15.63

Constituion of Tobacco Board

*280. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Tobacco Board last constituted;

(b) the criteria and guidelines adopted in the nomination of members on the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no equal representation of the tobacco producing States on the Board;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this unequal representation of all the tobacco producing States is the root cause of biased decisions and favouritism, as alleged in some quarters; and

(e) if so, the manner in which Government propose to overcome the said problem and by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Tobacco Board was last reconstituted in January 2002.

(b) to (e) The appointment of the members on the Board is made in accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and the rules made thereunder. The Board comprising members drawn from Central and State Government, both houses of Parliament, growers, exporters and traders, represents a wide cross section of all interests. Its functions and activities are guided by the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder. The representation of tobacco producing States in the Board is equitable. The Board has been fair and objective in discharging its duties under the Act and the rules.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export earning

1789. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total export earning during the current financial year;

(b) the level of growth expected;

(c) whether it is a fact that export earning is affected by stiff competitions; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase export earning by giving incentives to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The value of merchandies exports during April-October, 2002-2003 are valued at US $ 28238.65 million which is higher than the level of US $ 24841. 76 million during April—October, 2001-2002. The export target fixed for 2002-03 is 12%.

(c) No, Sir Though exporters have to compete with competitors, export earnings have not been affected this year. In fact, exports have registered a growth rate of 13.67% during April—October, 2002-03 over the corresponding period of the last year which is more than the target fixed for the current financial year.

(d) Export promotion being a constant endeavour, various initiatives have been taken by the Government to boost exports of merchandise